SPECIAL
COLLECTIONS

DOUGLAS
LIBRARY

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY
AT KINGSTON

KINGSTON ONTARIO CANADA

THE Countries Vindication, FROM

The Aſperſions of a late Scandalous Paper (Nick-named) *Robert Tell-truths Advice in choice of the next Parliament.* In which his Popiſh Deſigns are fully diſcovered and detected. By a Lover of his King and Country.

Reſpice & Cave.

BY how much Deſigns are laid moſt oppoſite to Truth and Righteouſneſs, ſo much the more are thoſe workers of iniquity active and induſtrious to promote thoſe indirect Intereſts, *Per fas aut nefas*, turn every ſtone, never wanting the pretence of publick advantage. In this art of *Legerdemain*, our old, but now moſt vigorous enemies, the *Papiſts*, are upon their great trial of skill. In ſome Pamphlets they throw off the Plot, as viſible as it is; and in a late Paper they undertake to adviſe the People of *England* in their Elections of Parliament-men; and have made it their buſineſs to create Jealouſies amongſt the Proteſtants, thereby to diviſe that Intereſt which is all little enough when intire, to reſiſt their deviliſh and hell-bred Machinations. This Sophiſter tells us, There has been Factions in all Ages playing their tricks; and that *in nomine Domini*, I can conſent with him to our ſad experience, I can turn the truth upon the Popiſh faction, and by that time I have done, lay all the Deviliſh tricks at their own door. In the mean time tell him, *Turpe eſt Doctori cum culpa redarguit ipſum:* Thou that teacheſt another ſhould not ſteal, doſt thou murder, and commit Sacriledg? thou Hypocrite, take out the beam out of thy own eye firſt, before thou undertake the mote in thy brothers; and ere you hope to have your Advice to paſs, let us examine your Compoſition. I find your whole Receipt has dangerous Ingredients, Reflections upon Parliaments, upon all godly ſober men, and upon honeſt Country-men. Another part in the mixture, are ſeeds of Jealouſies and Diviſions thrown amongſt us, your old ſtratagems! this will not do, *Mors in olla*, we find a Snake in the ſweet herbs, and death in the pot; I believe you have had this *recipe* from Sir *George Wakeman*, skilful in the venomous Art of Poyſoning. Your deſign, Sir, is diſcovered, therefore you cannot hope to ſucceed; your caution againſt the Godly, the ſober party, nor the honeſt Country-man, will not divide us: I can aſſure you, Sir, they are no *Papiſts*; and for thoſe unhappy diviſions that are and have been amongſt us in the Church, we ſhall demonſtrate the Jeſuit inforc'd 'em; and he muſt needs go that the Devil drives; and to draw a ſuſpect one amongſt another, he tells us of what tricks, and what vizards were worn in Forty-eight by *Puritans* and others; at which time you ſay they loſt their Mask; a favour of your own beſtowing, and now has reaſſumed it again, with which you are playing the Devil in the ſhape of an Angel of light; but what have you to do to rake up our former miſeries, which I hope God has forgiven, and the King has graciouſly ſo long ſince pardoned? by whoſe wiſdom and goodneſs he ſits Enthroned in his peoples hearts; all your ſubtilties cannot unſettle the favourable apprehenſions his Majeſty has of his Proteſtant ſubjects loyalty after twenty years experience; nor any ways bring in queſtion the duty and affections of his People; no, Sir, the reſentments of former evils are too freſh amongſt us for any Popiſh machinations to diſſolve this union; take the holy cheat to your ſelf your *Pia fraudes* are the beſt ſupport of your *Romiſh* Church; and had not your Engins play'd amongſt us, our Puritan had never ſeparated from the Church of *England*; for I muſt tell you, all the ſober, godly party, and *Puritans* too, were all conformable to the decent and orderly government of the Church of *England*; read and heard

Divine ſervice, and wore the Surplice, and there held ſteddy till the fourth Commandment was almoſt expunged the Decalogue; witneſs the Book ſet out by the Arch-biſhop of *Canterbury*, for licenſing Sports, Plays, and Dancings on the Lords day, enforcing all Miniſters to read it in their Churches, which divers otherwiſe conformable out of conſcience refuſed, for which they were turned out of their Miniſtry, and a company of ſcandalous debauchees, men of any latitude, put into their places: This was a bird hatcht at *Rome*, ſent to be nurſt in *England*, knowing well it would bring to paſs their infallible deſign to divide us; and from the ſame counſels came into our Churches thoſe crouds of Trumperies, Tapers, and Crucifixes, Cringings and Bowings, that the Service of God was turned to a Popiſh Antick; all in pretence as it was publickly aſſerted by ſome Grandees then in the Church, to bring us to as near an union with the Church of *Rome* as poſſibly the temper of the preſent time would bear. We do not forget what was enforc'd upon the peaceable Kirk of *Scotland*, where the three footed Stools from the old Womens Fayls began the War; all theſe were likely ways to preſerve us from Popery, contrary to the deſigns of our bleſſed Reformers King *Edward* the ſixth, and Queen *Elizabeth* of bleſſed Memory, who by degrees as thoſe days would endure, drew us ſtill further off from thoſe Fopperies; and we might have expected then when the Nation was become generally Proteſtant, to have kept a greater diſtance by a further Reformation; and as in the Church, ſo in the State, men of corrupt minds, and pernicious practices, to ſatisfie their avarice and boundleſs ambitions, obtruded ſeveral Illegal Impoſitions, as Loan-money and Ship-money, againſt Law, (for which divers Noblemen and Gentlemen endured long Impriſonments); Cuſtoms exacted without Act of Parliament, with ſwarms of Monoplies, under which the Nation groaned; then came in the *Scotch* with a formidable Army to our Borders, with their Petitions. A Parliament was call'd, who inſpecting the Grievances of the Nation, diſcovered thoſe wicked Counſellors, and dangerous Influences of the *Papiſts*, Impeaching and calling to account thoſe contrivers and actors of theſe Oppreſſions; ſome whereof fled; others for their own protection, (and the Jeſuits the better to ſhuffle in their deſigns in the midſt of our confuſions) made the beſt of Kings ſuſpect his ſafety amongſt his People, and drove us into that unnatural War; then the *Papiſt* not out of affection to his Majeſty, but having no other ſubterfuge, and to carry on their deſigns, ran in with their Arms, got into ſeveral great places of Truſt, Military and Civil; contriving and effecting an Act of Pacification with the bloody *Iriſh* Rebels, after they had imbrued their hands in the blood and murder of a Hundred thouſand of his Majeſties Proteſtant Subjects in *Ireland*; all which begat deſperate apprehenſions in the minds of moſt men, that Arbitrarineſs and Popery were breaking in upon us; though as we are bound to believe, never deſign'd by that bleſſed Prince and glorious Martyr. The *Papiſt* joyning unfortunately in this War, heightned the confuſion, and now blood and rapine know no bounds, the King is overthrown in his juſt Cauſe, by the wicked deſigns of theſe diſturbers of the World, and enemies to Mankind, who brought him alſo to his miſerable End; and it can, and is now prov'd, that the *Jeſuits* had in that Trayterous and horrid murder a principal hand, *Quis Talia fando ſuſtinet a lachrimis.* After this diſmal Tragedy was over, and we in the height of diſtraction, and the Land in a Chaos of confuſions, eſtrang'd from peace and ſettlement, God in Judgment remembred mercy, and by his Miraculous Providence, our bleſſed Prince, like the glorious Sun, after our diſmal Nights, and ſharp winter of afflictions, appeared in our Horizon, to our almoſt diſtracting-joys, receiving his People with open arms of Clemency, to which his People ecchoed with all loyal expreſſions of grateful affections and duty, our Government of Church and State eſtabliſht, and we now in the apprehenſions of peace and ſafety, every man expecting to ſit down under his own Vine and Fig-tree, enjoying the fruits of his labours, in which the *Papiſt* had more than an equal ſhare, through the Grace and Princely bounty of our King (not ſuſpecting their deſigns) and they boaſting themſelves as his moſt loyal ſubjects.

Whilſt they were in this unqueſtionable credit, and all the ſevere Laws againſt them laid aſleep, infinite ſwarms of Jeſuits, Prieſts and Friers, and all ſorts of Orders, like the *Egyptian* Plague of Locuſts, came in amongſt us, perverting the Kings Subjects contrary to Law, compaſſing Sea and Land to gain Proſelytes, in which they have prov'd too ſucceſsful; and amongſt thoſe many hundreds ſeduced (to lay their foundations ſure) they have rob'd our Nation of the moſt Heroick Victorious Prince, next Apparent Heir to the Crown. This we may remark as an infallible confirmation of their damnable Plot, a Treaſon of the deepeſt dye, never to be forgiven by any Proteſtant, and a quarrel never to be reconciled; they had wounded us in our ſeveral Members before, but in this they ſtabbed us to the very heart; and now it began to be fair day, their deſigns obvious, the ruin of King and Kingdom, with all the artifice that Hell could ſecretly and cunningly contrive; and had been as certainly executed, had not the infinite mercy of God taken care of us, unmaſke their deſigns, and diſcovered their horrid Plot, by the prudent, faithful, and unqueſtionable Informations of Dr. *Oates*, Mr. *Bedlow*, *Dugdale* and others, who under God preſerved the Life of our moſt Gracious King, and with him our Lives, Liberties, Religion, and all that's dear to us; for which faithful im-

portant

portant service they deserve the best of Rewards here, and their Names to be written in Characters of Gold, Chronicled to posterity; and though their serious and most congruous Evidences, back'd with many most undeniable Circumstances, have past an Examination by His Majesty and Council, and by two Parliaments successively; and lasty, by all the Judges of the Nation, in fair, full, and Legal Tryals confirmed, and the Conspirators justly Convicted, and brought to punishment: yet such is the blinded wilfulness of many, and the malicious Impudence of others, that notwithstanding all, and the Murder of brave Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey* to boot, they would fain wash their hands in Innocency, and are still playing their Game in new disguises, imposing a belief upon the world, that the danger lyes in the Dissenting Protestants; but the Devil cannot detect them for one act of Disloyalty since His Majesties Restauration, whilest you have been plotting all this while, and wrought your designs into Treasonable Acts of all kinds; and yet by the help of your Principles, special Merits and Absolutions, as Innocent as the Child unborn. But, Sir, these fig-leaves will not cover your nakedness, you cannot catch *English*-men in Cobwebs; nor can you, and all your *Popish Masquerado's*, dance in your Nets, but you must be seen, *Noscitur ungue Leo*, the Devil is known by his Cloven-foot, and your Characters are written in the flames of *London*, and in indelible Characters of Blood, which cry for judgment to Heaven against you: Take heed therefore, you that forget God, Christianity, and Morality, lest he tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver you: 'tis not the least happiness, that you are known to the world, you cursed *Jesuits*; What was your behaviour when you were banish'd *France*, when you were expell'd the *Venetian* Territories, and other States, where they found you Firebrands that would have destroyed their Kingdoms, and Commonwealths? Who Murder'd the *French* Kings? No *Puritan*, no Godly party, no honest Countrey-man. *Phanatick Priests* and *Jesuits* are principl'd for those Butcheries. You are too well known by the bloody Colours; and the Noble Cavalier that fought Conscienciously for his King, found such ill success with you in the late War, you robbing him of his Lawrel, and of the due Rewards of his blood and sweat, will never hand with you again: All your wheadles will never gain him from the Church of *England*, nor make him insensible of the safety of his King, nor less careful of the Interest of *England* by well-Elected Parliaments; neither shall all your false insinuations prevail to make the world believe, That either our Parliaments or People would put down Bishops, a Trick to put the design off your selves, that you may better, without suspicion, do the work; no, Sir, we honour that Government, and by Gods Grace will stand to it, and revere our Grave and Learned Bishops, whom we look at, under God, the best Bulwarks against your Tyrannick Popish Innovations.

The next thing he brings out of his Box, is a new *Shiboleth*, or a distinction betwixt the honest Countrey-man and Courtier; and, indeed, there is a great difference, for the honest Countrey-man is for the honour, peace, and safety of the King and Kingdom; takes care, and labours hard to get money to support the King and Government; and this Courtier detested by all, and comes under the reproachful distinction, is a pernicious piece of Luxury, a Drone, a too-fac'd *Janus*, that has crept into the Confines of the Royal Palace, where he fawns and flatters till he has obtain'd so much countenance, as can get him into some Trust; and observing how the wind blows, turns his Sails so readily, that in time he dare attempt with Commendatory Letters, an Election in some petty Burrough, where he must drink away an honest Countrey Gentleman; and by the strength of a publick Purse he is chosen by those pitiful Sots, that understand no other danger or advantage, than the profit of the present Carowzing; he is now return'd, and sits, having neither honour, honesty, nor estate, necessary qualifications for the trust of others Lives and Estates; his work is then to make up his stake by any device. I cannot compare it better than to the practice of some Knavish Master of a Ship, who being intrusted by his Owners with a goodly Ship, and fraught with a valuable Cargo; he having no part in either, takes up on *Bottom-Ree* as much money as ever his credit can possibly stretch to; and having made up his Market, the next best opportunity, when he can most colourably do it, runs his Ship upon the Rock, or Shelves, where he may save himself, but undoes his Merchants and Owners. The Metaphor will hold as well with this Courtly Senator, who will serve the *French* King for Crowns, and sell his own Prince, whose bread and favour supported his being; and for a Pension, betray the Lives, Liberties, and Religion of the three Kingdoms, and is now known to the Kingdom by the name of *Pensioner*. 'Tis this Treacherous Crew of Court-Vermin we inveigh against, and that we caution against in all our Elections: but for all those men of Honour, Wisdom, and Integrity, that are faithful to His Majesty, and the Interest of the Kingdoms (attending the Court) we Love and Honour: Therefore cease your Calumnious Aspersions, and pack from amongst us.

The quarrel now is purely betwixt Protestant and Papist: Since all must suffer together, of what perswasion soever, under the denomination of Protestant, I think it concerns all to stand together, and unanimously provide for our selves, by all lawful means: The chief of which, and the only remedy under God, is our Parliaments; who like good Physicians, purges away

corrupt

corrupt humours, repreſenting our grievances to the King, providing Remedies for all our diſtempers, and ſupporting His Majeſty againſt all foreign and homebred enemies. This, as it is the great priviledg and birth-right of Engliſh-men, and is the bond of their ſafety, if the beſt of men be elected to that great truſt; ſo if care be not taken to keep out Atheiſts, Papiſts, Penſioners, and beggarly Prodigals, that will ſnap at every bait, your Medicine ſhall prove your Poyſon, and your Phyſicians your fatal Executioners. Shut not therefore your eyes, nor ſtop your ears, you ſee and underſtand enough by what is laid open, being all matter of fact; This deſign and deviliſh Plot has been long a growing, and now the Kingdom is labouring in its great *Criſis*; now is the time that all Hands, Hearts, Prayers, Parliaments, are all little enough to ſuccour in this deplored calamity. Parliaments would have diſcovered the Plot; offer remedies, and ſome think with too much hearty zeal. So that two Parliaments are already Diſſolved, to the amazement of the Nation in this juncture of time: and 'tis hard and ſtrange we cannot be thought well with Parliaments, be they never ſo good; neither can we be without them; and theſe His Majeſty graciouſly declares ſhall be frequent.

Therefore Gentlemen, and my dear Countrey-men, in the Name of God, and as you value the concerns of the Goſpel, the honour, life and ſafety of your Prince, your Religion, Lives, Liberties and Eſtates, take care now of your Elections, as much, or more than ever; up and be doing, and the Lord that hath hitherto preſerved you, will ſtill deliver, if you be not wanting to your ſelves in the uſe of thoſe lawful means God has put into your hands.

I ſhall only add this neceſſary Advertiſement, That if Parliaments be frequent, your danger will be ſo; for by often diſſolutions of Parliaments, and your expectations not being anſwered, you may thereby be diſcouraged, grow negligent, and ſo let your watchful enemy have an opportunity to bring in their rotten Hirelings, that will ſell your birthrights, or any thing, to anſwer their hungry appetites.

The next danger is, leſt frequent Parliaments, beſides the trouble, will bring on a frequent inſupportable charge, which thoſe honeſt Gentlemen that deſerve ſo great a truſt, cannot undergo the burden of, and ſo be forc'd to deſert you.

Therefore I humbly adviſe, and heartily beſeech you, hear and pity the dying groans of your languiſhing Country; it is but your reaſonable ſervice, *Nemo ſibi naſcitur partem patria, partem Parentes, partem Amici*, all are concern'd. I addreſs my ſelf firſt to you the Electors, the Principal great Ingine, by which this mighty work muſt move; let no diſcouragements make you weary, but faithfully and duly attend your Elections, and actively ſtrive to raiſe all your Friends, Acquaintance and Relations with you, and make your choice of men fearing God, and hating Covetouſneſs; men of Honour, men of Honeſty, and men of Eſtates, and then miſs of a good Parliament if you can. Next, encourage thoſe faithful Gentlemen, of whoſe fidelity you have already had experience; chuſe them, and that freely, not charging them with a Penny, that they may be ſtill in a capacity to ſerve you, without their ruine. And you moſt worthy Patriots, that have immortalized your names by your faithful diſcharging of your Truſts in Parliament, let nothing diſcourage you, but ſtand to, and for your King and Country; be not weary of well doing, let not your hearts faint before you have fully wrought deliverance for the Kingdom; your merits can never be forgotten, *for the memory of the juſt ſhall never fade.* Give God his due, in maintaining his truths in our eſtabliſht Religion; give *Cæſar* his right in his Royal Prerogative, and keep and maintain the peoples right, as a facred relique depoſited in your hands; and he that will break but one Link in this Golden-Chain, let him be *Anathema, Maranatha:* Liſt up then your heads, brave Engliſh men, let nothing daunt you, mind well your Elections, and then Pope and Devil do thy worſt, nothing but our own neglects and ſins can undo us: and it will be the greateſt ſhame, that we ſhould be leſs active in ſo good a Cauſe to preſerve our ſelves, than the Enemy in a wicked one, to deſtroy us.

FINIS.